



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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January 21, 1927.

SPORTSMEN AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
DISCUSS WELFARE OF WILD FOWL

Representative sportsmen and State game conservation officials from many parts of the United States met in the auditorium of the United States National Museum on January 20 with officials of the United States Department of Agriculture to discuss methods by which additional protection might be given to migratory wild fowl, particularly ducks and geese. The meeting was presided over by Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, R. W. Dunlap, and the introductory statement of the purpose for calling the game conservationists and their representatives together was made by Dr. Edward W. Nelson, Chief of the Biological Survey. Many requests had been made of the department that it reduce the bag limits for wild ducks from 25 to 15 and for geese from 8 to 6 for the entire country. Others had suggested that the country be districted with one set of regulations prescribed for the Atlantic Seaboard, another for the area drained by the Mississippi River and its tributaries, and a third for the more arid western region extending across the Rockies to the Pacific Coast. Appearing for their constituents from near and distant points, several members of both houses of Congress presented the case from local angles, both for and against changes in the regulations. At the afternoon session representatives of sportsmen's associations, State game commissioners, and individual sportsmen made addresses. The general feeling expressed was against any change in the existing regulations on bag limits, but many felt that the most effective additional protection needed for the birds was a shortening of the open seasons.

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Representative sportsmen, conservationists, and State game officials from many parts of the country met with Department of Agriculture officials at Washington on January 20 to consider methods by which better protection might be given to migratory wild fowl, particularly wild ducks and wild geese. The large majority of representatives attending the conference expressed the opinion that further protection for migratory wild fowl should not involve a reduction in the daily bag limit, but many felt that a shortening of the open season would be the most satisfactory step to take for the protection of the birds. The hearing was presided over by Hon. H. W. Dunlap, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. Included among those attending the conference were the following:

Hon. Lawrence G. Phipps, U. S. Senate.

~~Hon. Edwin S. Huntington,~~ " " "

Hon. Kenneth McKellar, " " "

Hon. Lawrence D. Tyson, " " "

Hon. Peter G. Gerry, " " "

~~Hon. James M. McManis,~~ " " "

Hon. Thomas B. McMillan, U. S. House of Representatives.

Hon. T. Webster Wilson, " " " " "

Hon. Charles L. Abernethy, " " " " "

Hon. Virgil Chapman, " " " " "

Hon. Robert L. Bacon, " " " " "

E. Lee Le Compte, State Game Warden of Maryland.

John Dymond, Jr., New Orleans, La.

Stanley G. Arthur, Director Division of Wild Life,
Department of Conservation of Louisiana.

John L. Saltonstall, Massachusetts Fish and Game
Protective Association.

Hon. W. M. Mooney, Postmaster of Washington, D. C.

W. T. Harnaday, Stamford, Conn.

John C. Phillips, Massachusetts Fish and Game
Protective Association.

H. F. Stone, New York City.

W. E. Carey, " " "

Edmund Seymour, " " "

John B. Abraham, " " "

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Phay B. Putnam, New York State Fish, Game and Forest League.
Jerome V. Jerome, Long Island Association of Sportsmen's
Clubs and New York Conservation Association of
Buffalo.

J. Sanford Barnes, Currituck, N.C., Shooting Club and South
Side Sportsmen's Club of Long Island.

Joseph P. Knapp, Madaket Island, N. C.

~~R. C. Johnson~~, Washington, N. C.

Comdr. F. R. Molt, Back Bay Game Protective Association, Va.

Judge William S. Snow, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
of Virginia.

F. P. Pelen, Ragged Island Club, Back Bay, Va.

William T. Barret, Fish and Game Commission of Kentucky.

Russell S. Ridgely, Augusta, Ky.

V. M. Hadger, Knoxville, Tenn.

C. M. Moore, " "

J. M. Stratton, New Jersey Fish and Game Commission.

H. T. Hegmann, " " " " " "

~~G. W. Jenkins, Maryland - Ill.~~